

Humour Summaries

HU 144U TheLast Matchmaker by Willie Daly

In his long career as a matchmaker, Willie Daly has helped hundreds of couples find happiness. With his unique blend of intuition, quiet wisdom and a small drop of cunning, Willie reveals the secret to finding true love, and shares the story of a life spent bringing people together in love and marriage. For centuries, Irish matchmakers have performed the vital service of bringing people together. It is a mysterious art, and the very best matchmakers have an almost magical quality to them. Willie Daly, whose father and grandfather were matchmakers before him, is the most famous of them all.

The path to love can be heart-warming, hilarious, and sometimes hair-raising—and Willie is the perfect guide. For those still looking for romance, he also has some hard-earned, practical advice. Rich with characters, humour, drama and—of course—Guinness, Willie Daly regales us with some of his funniest and most touching matchmaking stories.

HU 149U Sporting Gaffes Volume 1 & 2 by BBC Audio

HU 150U The Goon Show Volume 13 by The Goon Show

This 13th collection turns the clock back to the 1950s and the series' earliest surviving recordings. The episodes included are 'Harry Secombe Tracks Lo-Hing Ding', 'Handsome Harry Hunts for The Lost Drummer', 'The Failures of Handsome Harry Secombe', 'The Mystery of the Monkey's Paw', 'The Man Who Tried to Destroy London's Monuments', 'The Ghastly Experiments of Dr Hans Eidelburger', and 'The Missing Prime Minister'. Also featured are surviving extracts from 'The Search for the Bearded Vulture' and 'The Giant Bombardon'. A host of bonus features are included in the collection, including the 1991 programme 'At Last The Go On Show', 'Goon Again' and 'Just Before Goonrise' from 2001, 'Laughter in the Air' from 1979, 'Spike at 80' from 1998, various extracts from Desert Island Discs, and much more.

HU 160U The Navy Lark 23, a Fishy Business by BBC Audio

HU 161U The Navy Lark Series 6 Volume 1 by BBC Radio

The Navy Lark, one of radio's longest running laughter-makers, kept the nation on the crest of a comic wave from 1959 to 1977. All at sea in the Senior Service were conniving Petty Officer Jon Pertwee, silly-ass Sub-Lieutenant Leslie Phillips and the constantly bemused Stephen Murray as 'Number One'. Below decks Ronnie Barker was just about working his passage as (UN) Able Seaman 'Fatso' Johnson. This collection includes the first ten episodes of the sixth series of 'The Navy Lark', the majority previously unreleased. The episodes are: 'Wren Chasen Returns'; 'On The Carpet'; 'The Bungalow Spies'; 'Troutbridge's Party'; 'Rescuing Admirals'; 'Demise Of The Depth Charges'; 'The Struggle For Promotion'; 'Navigation by Computer'; 'Stormy Weather' and 'Chasing The Kepeac'

HU 162U Julian and Sandy by BBC Radio

Julian and Sandy were characters on the BBC radio programme Round the Horne in 1965-1968, played respectively by Hugh Paddick and Kenneth Williams, with scripts written by Barry Took and Marty Feldman. According to a BBC Radio 4 programme on the characters they were named after the writers Sandy Wilson and Julian Slade.

The characters were originally conceived as two ageing Shakespearean "old luvvie" thespians who were doing domestic work (in Kenneth Horne's flat) while waiting for the next acting job. The producer thought the characters were too sad and suggested making them younger "chorus boy" types. Their first appearance was in episode four of the first series, and they proved to be so successful that they appeared in every other episode.

As well as being highly amusing, Julian and Sandy were notable for being two camp homosexual characters in mass entertainment at a time when homosexuality was still illegal in the UK, and for the use of Polari (or Palare) in the sketches. The writers and cast thought the characters worked very well as they were not being held up to ridicule or simply there to be the target of a joke, in fact most of the sketches revolved around Kenneth Horne's presumed ignorance being the target of their jokes.

HU 163U I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again by BBC Radio

HU 164U Dad's Army by BBC Radio

HU 165U The Navy Lark Series 6 Volume 2 by BBC Radio

HU 166U Old Age and How to Survive it by Edward Enfield

Old age comes to us all, and this book wittily advises on how to survive its trickier obstacles, not least the people who suggest you must "do something." One of the great delights of the golden years is doing less—from giving up do-it-yourself and ambition to not inviting people to dinner. These elegantly entertaining essays guide those entering their finer years on how to make the most of old age.

HU 172U Take it From Here by BBC Radio Comedy

HU 173U Just a Minute. The Best of 2012 by BBC

HU 180U Guide Cats for the Blind by Various authors

Strange songs and poems are Les Barker's specialty. The Financial Times praised his work as a "blend of Edward Lear nonsense, Stanley Unwin wordplay, the surreal inconsequentiality of Reeves and Mortimer and the demotic robustness of Stanley Holloway monologues." Here he performs the first and last piece on this 40 track set, and his remaining works are brought to life by Terry Wogan, Mark & Lard, Ned Sherrin, Sir Jimmy Young, Charlotte Green, Johnnie Walker, June Tabor, Peter White, Ken Bruce, Sally Boazman and many others

HU 181U Folly by Alan Titchmarsh

Jamie Ballantyne and Artemis King were never meant to fall in love. The feud between their families has run for three generations.

But whatever Jamie's head might tell him, his heart will always belong to Artemis. After fifty years, perhaps it's time for the Kings and the Ballantynes to bury the hatchet.

Then Jamie and Artemis start to uncover their shared past. What they find will rock the foundations of both their families, as a web of deceit and intrigue is ruinously exposed...

HU 182U 1000Years of Laughter, An Anthology of Classic Comedy by David Timson

Laughter is unique to man. This delightful anthology presents some of the funniest extracts in English literature. David Timson starts with Anglo-Saxon riddles and continues with medieval memories, Tudor comic turns and Restoration buffoonery. The rise of the novel in the eighteenth century brought classic humour from Swift, Sterne and Smollet, passing the mantle to Charles Dickens in the nineteenth century. Included here are rarities as well, from the antiquarian's cupboard. There are also excerpts from children's literature and twentieth-century classics as diverse as Dorothy Parker and P.G. Wodehouse.

HU 185U Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction by Sue Townsend

Adrian Mole, now age thirty-four and three quarters, needs proof that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction so he can get a refund from a travel agency of the deposit he paid on a trip to Cyprus. Naturally, he writes to Tony Blair for some evidence.

He's engaged to Marigold, but obsessed with her voluptuous sister. And he is so deeply in debt to banks and credit card companies that it would take more than twice his monthly salary to ever repay them. He needs a guest speaker for his creative writing group's dinner in Leicestershire and wonders if the prime minister's wife is available.

In short, Adrian is back in true form, unable—like so many people we know, but of course, not us—to admit that the world does not revolve around him. But recognizing the universal core of Adrian's dilemmas is what makes them so agonizingly funny.

HU 186 & 187 Old, Blind and Pissed off by Eliana Liatta Beam

HU 190U Adrian Mole The Cappuccino Years by Sue Townsend

In his latest confessional diary, Adrian, now thirty, is separated from his exotic and accomplished Nigerian wife, and is a single parent to his three-year-old son. He works as a cook in a smart London restaurant that specializes in repulsive working-class food. When, to his surprise, he finds he has an older son as well, he takes responsibility and finally learns to cope.

HU 191U& 193U Adrian Mole The Prostrate Years by Sue Townsend

When we last heard from Adrian, he had fallen in love with Daisy Flowers and they had embarked on a new life with their baby, Gracie. Fast-forward four years and Adrian's life is in turmoil again. Living in the Piggeries is far from ideal, middle age is beckoning and the ups and downs of parenthood are still plaguing him.

HU 194U Love and Other Dangerous Chemicals by Anthony Capella

Dr Steven J. Fisher is a young and brilliant biochemist (special subject: the female orgasm). He's invented a Viagra-like pill for women - now he just needs his results to be perfect. Annie is an orgasmically-challenged arts student (special subject: Victorian semicolons). She's just volunteered to be one of Fisher's case studies - but for some reason his miracle treatment isn't working. As scientist and subject bond over romantic meals lit by the flickering glow of a Bunsen burner, Dr Fisher is surprised to find his feelings taking a most unscientific turn...what if love is one thing science can't explain?

HU 195U Cat out of Hell by Lynne Truss

For people who both love and hate cats comes the tale of Alec Charlesworth, a librarian who finds himself suddenly alone: he's lost his job, his beloved wife has just died. Overcome by grief, he searches for clues about her disappearance in a file of interviews between a man called "Wiggy" and a cat, Roger, who speaks to him.

It takes a while for Alec to realize he's not gone mad from grief, that the cat is actually speaking to Wiggy . . . and that much of what we fear about cats is true. They do think they're smarter than humans, for one thing. And, well, it seems they are! What's more, they do have nine lives. Or at least this one does – Roger's older than Methuselah, and his unblinking stare comes from the fact that he's seen it all.

And he's got a tale to tell, a tale of shocking local history and dark forces that may link not only the death of Alec's wife, but also several other local deaths. But will the cat help Alec, or is he one of the dark forces?

HU 197U Bring Me Sunshine by Charlie Connelly

Charlie Connelly sets off on the trail of our island obsession, the weather. And when talking about the British climate which aspect do we usually turn to first? Rain...

We talk about the weather a lot. It exasperates, confounds and on occasion delights us. Our national conversation is dominated by the weather, but how much do we really know about it? In *Bring Me Sunshine*, Charlie Connelly sets off on the trail of our island obsession.

He breezes through the lives of meteorological eccentrics, geniuses, rainmakers and cloud-busters and brings vividly to life great weather events from history.

He sheds light on Britain's weirdest wind, the first weather forecast and why people once thought firing cannons at clouds was a great idea.

Having adventured round the shipping forecast areas for his bestselling *Attention All Shipping*, Connelly is the perfect guide through a melange of gales, blizzards, mists, heatwaves and the occasional shower of fish. *Bring Me Sunshine* answers all your weather questions as well as helping you to distinguish your graupel from your petrichor.

HU 204U The Midnight Gang by David Walliams

Welcome to the Midnight Gang! Midnight is the time when all children are fast asleep, except of course for... the Midnight Gang. That is when their adventures are just beginning...

When Tom gets hit on the head by a cricket ball, he finds himself at Lord Funt Hospital, and is greeted by a terrifying-looking porter. Things go from bad to worse when he meets the wicked matron in charge of the children's ward... But Tom is about to embark on the most thrilling journey of a lifetime!

The Midnight Gang tells an extraordinarily heart-warming and, of course, funny story of five children on a hospital ward – and on a quest for adventure! It is a story of friendship and magic – and of making dreams come true. Readers are set to be utterly spellbound by this heartfelt story that will bring magic to everyone.

HU 205U Grandpa's Great Escape by David Walliams

Grandpa lives in a Maximum Security Twilight Zone and his Grandson attempts to set him free.

Jack's Grandpa... wears his slippers to the supermarket; serves up tinned tongue for dinner and often doesn't remember Jack's name

But he can still take to the skies in a speeding Spitfire and save the day...

HU 206U Awful Auntie by David Walliams

A page-turning, rollicking romp of a read, sparkling with Walliams' most eccentric characters yet and full of the humour and heart that all his readers love, Awful Auntie is simply unmissable!

From larger than life, tiddlywinks obsessed Awful Aunt Alberta to her pet owl, Wagner – this is an adventure with a difference. Aunt Alberta is on a mission to cheat the young Lady Stella Saxby out of her inheritance – Saxby Hall. But with mischievous and irrepressible Soot, the cockney ghost of a chimney sweep, alongside her Stella is determined to fight back... And sometimes a special friend, however different, is all you need to win through.

HU 207U Demon Dentist by David Walliams

Darkness had come to the town. Strange things were happening in the dead of night. Children would put a tooth under their pillow for the tooth fairy, but in the morning they would wake up to find... a dead slug; a live spider; hundreds of earwigs creeping and crawling beneath their pillow.

Evil was at work. But who or what was behind it...?

-----Numerical order 16/04/18